

Senate Resolution 818

By: Senators Bulloch of the 11th, Tolleson of the 20th, Hooks of the 14th, Weber of the 40th, Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Septage Disposal Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, there are approximately 2 million active individual on-site waste-water
3 treatment systems or septic tanks located in the State of Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, to maintain the environmental integrity of those systems, they should be
5 pumped out on a regular basis; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has recognized that these
7 systems are a viable cost effective and long-term option for meeting public health and water
8 quality goals, particularly in less densely populated areas as in a great part of Georgia when
9 they are adequately managed; and
- 10 WHEREAS, there are some municipalities and counties in Georgia that do not provide a
11 facility for the disposal of septage within their jurisdiction; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the individuals and companies engaged in the business of pumping out these
13 systems do not have reasonable options for the disposal of this septage; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in many instances, there are problems of disposing of septage in creeks,
15 streams, rivers, and on unimproved land since facilities are not made available; and
- 16 WHEREAS, this is a significant problem that has the potential to be a major health and
17 environmental hazard if it is not addressed in the very near future; and
- 18 WHEREAS, it is improper to require a municipality or county to accept waste without being
19 allowed to charge an appropriate fee.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
2 Septage Disposal Study Committee to be composed of 11 members. The Senate Committee
3 on Assignments shall appoint two members of the Senate Natural Resources and the
4 Environment Committee and two members of the Senate State and Local Government
5 Operations Committee as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
6 members as chairperson. In addition to legislative members, the study committee shall also
7 include one representative from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, one
8 representative from the Georgia Municipal Association, one representative from the Georgia
9 Onsite Wastewater Association, one representative from the Environmental Protection
10 Division of the Department of Natural Resources, one representative from the Public Health
11 Division of the Department of Human Resources, one representative from the Sierra Club,
12 and one representative from the Home Builders Association, all of whom shall be appointed
13 by the presidents, directors, or commissioners of their respective organizations. The
14 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
16 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
17 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
18 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
19 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
20 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
21 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
22 Code of Georgia Annotated. Members of the committee who are state officials, other than
23 legislative members, and state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on
24 the committee, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
25 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are
26 reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees. The funds
27 necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative
28 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available
29 to their respective departments. Except as otherwise provided in this resolution, all funds
30 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated
31 to the Senate. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be
32 received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
33 authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations,
34 with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before
35 December 1, 2006. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.